

Mobile Blood Unit at Arsenal July 15-16

Because of the urgency of the need for blood by the armed forces, the Joliet Arsenal again will co-operate with Will County chapter of the American Red Cross in obtaining blood for men in Korea when a mobile blood unit from the Chicago Defense Center visits the area next Tuesday and Wednesday. A previous visit to the Arsenal on Feb. 4 met with an excellent response from Arsenal employees.

Recruitment is now going on among the employees of the Elwood unit, the Kankakee unit operated by the U. S. Rubber Company, and the United States Ordnance Ammunition Center. To date approximately 300 persons have been scheduled, according to Paul Cundy, in charge of recruitment at the Ordnance Ammunition Center and he is confident that the full quota of 450 donors will be secured by the end of the week.

ALL ARSENAL employees are urged to take this opportunity of giving blood and to sign up with the proper recruitment personnel in the various divisions. The men in charge of recruitment are Clifford Wavrinek for the Elwood unit, Don Beard for the Kankakee unit and Paul Cundy for the Ordnance Ammunition Center.

The Red Cross quota of blood for the armed forces, according to George M. O'Brien, Will County Blood Program chairman, is now 300,000 pints per month. As much whole blood as is needed in Korea is flown regularly from the Travis Air Force Base and the remainder of the blood obtained is processed into plasma which is as vital to the welfare of the wounded as whole blood.

O'Brien pointed out that it requires 2.45 pints of blood to make each unit of plasma and that only plasma can be administered on the battlefield as whole blood must be under constant refrigeration. Unless sufficient plasma is available many of the wounded would not survive shock and live long enough to be moved to the mobile surgical hospitals where whole blood is administered.

BECAUSE OF the uncertain situation in Korea at this time, and the constantly increasing weekly casualties, the need for an adequate supply of plasma and whole blood can not be overemphasized.

O'Brien stated that the American Red Cross acts only as a collection agency for the armed forces and that all blood becomes the property of the United States government and is administered by military personnel immediately upon its delivery at Travis Air Force Base whence it is flown to Korea, or to designated laboratories for processing into plasma.